



## Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

7:00 PM

Ellington Town Annex

57 Main Street, Ellington, CT

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** D. Parisi-Chairman, E. Duell, J. Galeota, P. Gilbert, S. Koehler

**Others Present:** P. Williams-WPCA Administrator, T. Webb-DPW Director, J. Thompson-Town Engineer, N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Daniel Parisi called the regular meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority of January 23, 2013 to order at 7:02 PM.

#### **2. Citizens Forum/Public Comments – None**

#### **3. Old Business**

##### **Stafford Plan Assessment Update**

Peter Williams told the commissioners that the next meeting of the Stafford WPCA is February 4, 2013. He felt that the Town should start to pursue the agreement and meet the new chairman. They have done some new building on the treatment plant in the amount of \$1,000,000 and Peter feels it is maintenance which should be 2.9% reimbursable by Ellington. He has received 60% of the information requested through the Freedom of Information request and he feels all items he has reviewed to date are legitimate to the plant construction.

##### **Vernon Flow Update**

Vernon WPCA will be meeting tomorrow night. At their last meeting they approved the plan that was presented to them by the Town of Ellington and have passed it on to their administration for approval of the documents (copy attached). They have approved the additional flow for Country Pure Foods plus additional flow for the Town of Ellington. He felt that this was very good for Ellington in regards to growth.

## Country Pure Foods

Tim Webb, DPW Director, told the commissioners that the H2S levels have gone away and feels this is due to the temperatures as well as the permanent bioxide feed Country Pure installed. The Town of Ellington will continue to monitor it.

## Pump Station Meters and Upgrades

Tim Webb told the commissioners that the flow meters have been on hold for Crystal Lake PS. Frank Smith is doing his research to confirm that the flow meter if installed with work correctly at Crystal Lake. However, he would like to move ahead with Vernon Pump Station. The new pump at Vernon was installed today and the new mixer at Crystal Lake PS is scheduled for tomorrow. They have flushed about a mile or more of sewer lines this month in the Longview section of town. He asked that the WPCA authorize the purchase of the flow meters for Vernon Pump Station at a not to exceed price of \$7,500.

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW FLOW METER AT THE VERNON PUMP STATION AT A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500.**

## 2012-13 Administration/Staff Review

Peter Williams told the commissioners that before any decision or action is taken on this item, the First Selectman would like to meet with the Chairman of the WPCA. Chairman Dan Parisi will call to arrange that meeting.

## Past Due User Accounts

Peter Williams told the commissioners that in the next Ellington Connection there will be an article explaining the procedure to enforce past due accounts.

## 4. New Business

### 2013-14 Budget Process

Peter Williams and Nick DiCorleto have discussed the budget process for the WPCA and have come to the consensus that it should coincide with the Town's. Nick will finalize last year's accounting. The 2013-14 budget will be done in June with the adjustment of the fees to cover the budget to be done in August.

## Sewer User and Benefit Assessment Rate Review

Currently the rate for assessment is based on a per-bedroom rate that Peter Williams is suggesting be raised for inflation this August. In the Crystal Lake System the fee is a set rate for people with water wells. The Hockanum system has residents with wells and those on the CT Water System. Households with wells are charged a set fee and the ones on the CT Water

System are charged based on water usage. Ann Marie, Tax Collector has been experiencing some trouble getting the quantities from the CT Water Co. Peter Williams and Nick DiCorleto have been discussing this and would like to propose that Ellington implement a single rate system. The problem is trying to determine the single rate. Peter has drafted a proposal with various classifications such as apartments, 1 and 2 bedroom units, houses with more than 2 bedrooms and industrial rates with different flow categories. He received a copy of the Town of Coventry's determination of sewer user rates. Their system calls them Equivalent Dwelling Rates or EDU's. Mr. Williams stated that there will need to be a change to the regulations as well as a public hearing to set the new rate structures. He will have a proposal ready in two months that can be brought through the process so that it can be applied to the billing in December 2013. There was discussion regarding seasonal dwellings in the Crystal Lake area and that if they have proof that they are unoccupied for 6 months of the year, there is a credit given. The fee will have to be determined for these instances with the maintenance costs for the system taken into account. It was noted that both South Windsor and Coventry use the single rate fee.

## **5. Administrative**

By Consensus the Authority added #7 Bond Reductions –Ellington Highlands and Oak Hill Estates and acted on this item first.

Town Engineer, James Thompson, recommended that the bond for Ellington Highlands not be reduced. They completed a repair to the sewer line last fall and he would like the bond to be in place for a year. He has a concern about the material used for backfilling and would like to have WPCA hold the bond until June 2013.

**BY CONSENSUS THE WPCA WILL NOT RELEASE ANY OF THE BOND FOR ELLINGTON HIGHLANDS AT THIS TIME.**

Mr. Thompson stated that the dam and entrance for Oak Hill Estates has been corrected and he is recommending that they release the sewer bond in full.

**MOVED (DUELL) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RELEASE THE SEWER BOND FOR OAK HILL ESTATES IN FULL AS RECOMMENDED BY BUCK & BUCK ENGINEERS.**

Stafford Road Extension

James Thompson stated that the piping is completed, the pressure test was done and is satisfactory and that the system is ready for use. The final paving and grass restoration will be completed in the spring. There was an additional cost for the erosion control that was done just before Christmas due to heavy rains that were in the area. Peter Williams asked Mr. Thompson for an accounting of what was spent and what is to be spent so that he can set the benefit assessment and send notices to residents.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (DUELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
AUTHORIZE THE CONNECTIONS OF 10 PROPERTIES TO THE STAFFORD ROAD  
SEWER EXTENSION AS RECOMMENDED BY BUCK & BUCK ENGINEERS.**

**Crystal Lake Fire Station Connection**

James Thompson of Buck & Buck has completed the design for the connection and Mr. Webb received three prices to tie the Crystal Lake Fire Dept into the system. They are Waste Water Services - \$3,620; Barber Utilities- \$3,700; and Skips Septic \$4,873. This project will consist of a new grinder pump furnished by the Town. There is no paving or landscaping included in the price. The Town's electrician has done the electrical work to date and will complete the connection. After some discussion regarding Town owned buildings, it was the consensus of the WPCA that the Crystal Lake Fire Dept should pay for their connection and benefit assessment as do all other town owned buildings.

**Maple Street Extension**

This sewer extension is to service the new Senior Center located across the street from the High School. It will be about 300 ft, it needs to be designed, and should be done this spring. The Senior Center budget includes \$6,000 toward the connection. This extension will require a public hearing. There has been an offer to donate the labor for the project. Town Engineer, James Thompson felt it could be designed and the job done in that time frame.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (DUELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ENGINEER TO PREPARE THE DRAWINGS AND  
SCHEDULE FOR THE MAPLE STREET SEWER EXTENSION.**

**Upper Butcher Road Sewer Extension**

The Town Engineer has designed the conceptual plan and a budget. James Thompson stated that 13 Upper Butcher Rd has a failed septic system and is 190 ft from an active sewer. He has designed the extension so that all six houses can be served as an extension done by the sewer authority. This would be a low pressure system. The estimated budget is \$94,000. Mr. Williams is proposing that a public hearing be set for the March WPCA meeting so that this project can go forward quickly.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 20, 2013 FOR THE UPPER BUTCHER ROAD  
SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT.**

**Courtney Drive Sewer Extension**

James Thompson stated that this sewer has been tested satisfactorily and that the as-builts have been received. There have been lots sold and the sewers are ready for acceptance. He will write a letter recommending the acceptance of the sewers.

## Pinney Street Apartment Connections

James Thompson told the commissioners that some time ago the Stonebridge Apartments hooked into the sewer through an extension that was constructed for the Watercress Condominiums. It has since been realized that the easements were never done, the as built is not on file and the engineering review fee was not paid. There is a \$12,000 bond in place for the project. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Thompson to document the outstanding items and the financial impact for all.

Presently, the Pinney Brook Apartments have come to the Town to tie into the sewer and it looks like they are owned by the same firm that owns Stonebridge. They will be pumping to a new force main. This project will be before the Wetlands Commission in February which is required before seeking a permit from the WPCA. Mr. Thompson is going to make sure that the Wetlands Commission receives details on the ground water discharge and noted that the water table in that area will require dewatering during construction. He will recommend that the ground water discharge be monitored. There is also concern that the sump pumps be separated from the sewers. Mr. Thompson has spoken to the Town Attorney about the past due items and he is recommending that this project be done as a new entity and that the bond for the project be larger as it will require a crossing of Pinney Street to service the building on the opposite side of the road. There is an order for them to fix their septic system or connect to the sewer. The concerns about the sump pumps will require the WPCA inspector to be inside the buildings making sure they are removed from the system.

Mr. Gilbert asked Mr. Williams how the FOG program is coming. Mr. Williams stated that no inspections were done this month. They have done Big Y, Chics, and the schools have grease systems. There are presently no documented grease problems to date.

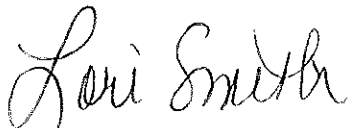
## 6. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2012

**MOVED (DUELL) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2012 AS WRITTEN.**

## Adjournment

**MOVED (DUELL) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 PM**

Respectfully Submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary



# TOWN OF VERNON

OFFICE OF THE  
WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL DEPARTMENT

8 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3699

Fax: (860) 870-3584

E-Mail: [dignatowicz@vernon-ct.gov](mailto:dignatowicz@vernon-ct.gov)

To: George F. Apel, Mayor  
John D. Ward, Town Administrator  
James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer  
Hal Cummings, Esquire, Vernon Town Attorney

From: David R. Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control

Subject: Modification to the Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement between the  
Town of Vernon, the Vernon W.P.C.A. and the Town of Ellington, and the  
Ellington W.P.C.A. Dated July 1, 2003

Date: January 10, 2013

The Town of Ellington WPCA has requested a modification to the above referenced Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement for the purpose of increasing the flow capacity allocated to the Town of Ellington.

Ellington is seeking an additional flow of 380,000 gallons per day to be added to their current allocation of 1,020,000 gallons. A portion of that flow has been requested by Country Pure Foods and is needed in order for them to meet the demands of their present operations. The remainder would be reserved for future use. By increasing their flow to 1,400,000 gallons per day, Ellington's percentage of plant capacity increases from 14.47% to 19.72%. This means that Ellington would be responsible for almost 20% of any future capital cost upgrades to the plant.

After several negotiation sessions between the administrative staff of both the Vernon and Ellington Water Pollution Control Departments, a proposed modification was presented to, reviewed by, and approved by, both Vernon's and Ellington's Water Pollution Control Authorities.

There are three and one half years of remaining debt service to be paid for the last treatment plant upgrade. Ellington has agreed to pay an additional up-front, lump sum payment to Vernon of \$180,000 for the remainder of the debt. Their current annual debt service payment is \$202,854.

In addition to the debt service payment, Ellington has agreed to eliminate a provision of the current agreement that requires Vernon to issue additional credits on Ellington's sewer user charges if the annual percentage of costs to operate and maintain the sewer collection system, as a ratio to the annual total cost of operating the treatment facility, exceeds 8.35%. By the current agreement, Vernon credits Ellington 7.7% quarterly on its sewer user charges because Ellington owns and maintains its own sewer system all the way to the treatment plant. If the actual costs exceed 8.35%, then Vernon credits the actual percentage of the increase, whatever it may be. By removing the 8.35% threshold, Vernon will credit 7.7% with no increases. The additional credit has been averaging about \$31,000 per year which Vernon would retain.

Memo Dated January 10, 2013  
Re: Intermunicipal Agreement  
Page 2 of 2

This modification would result in a mutual benefit to both communities. As you know, with the closing of Amerbelle Textiles in July 2012, there is unused capacity available. Amerbelle was permitted for 1.4 million gallons per day of flow and although their flows were considerably lower than that in recent years, their closing leaves the treatment plant somewhat underutilized with a current average daily flow of approximately 3.0 million gallons per day in a 7.1 million gallon per day facility. Also, as previously mentioned, Vernon will soon be required to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant for nutrient reduction and facility improvements. Ellington's share of that cost will be commensurate with their percentage of allocated flow.

At a meeting held on November 19, 2012, it was the consensus of the Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority to accept the proposal once Vernon had the opportunity to review and comment. The Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority met on December 13, 2012 and unanimously adopted a motion to accept the additional flow proposal and modification to the agreement subject to approval by the Vernon Town Attorney and the Town Finance Officer.

By this memorandum and on behalf of the Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority, I am requesting a review of the agreement by Attorney Cummings and ask that he develop specific contract language appropriate for the modifications as recommended by both Authorities. Once completed, it can be submitted for the review and approval by the appropriate signatories.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need any additional information.

C: Water Pollution Control Authority  
George Rostkowski, Business Manager, Water Pollution Control